

August 17, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER). The application period for the FY 2010 SAFER Program will open on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 8:00am EDT and will close on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 5:00pm EDT.

"Addressing firefighter staffing shortfalls is arguably the greatest challenge facing fire departments across the country," **said Arcuri**. The SAFER program provides desperately needed funding for departments hit by budget restrictions to ensure they have enough trained firefighters to respond to emergencies in our communities. I encourage any departments in need of funding to contact my office to learn how they can apply for these valuable grants."

The Department will award approximately \$420 million in SAFER grants this year. The purpose of these grants is to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with, or trained in, the operations of firefighting and emergency response. The grants are intended to create a net increase in the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies likely to occur within the grantee's geographic response area. One hundred percent of the actual salary and benefits for the SAFER-funded firefighters will be fully funded for the two-year period of performance.

Program guidance, an application tutorial and instructions as well as the electronic application for the SAFER program are available at www.firegrantsupport.com. Fire departments that have specific questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email efgrants@dhs.gov

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Local fire departments interested in applying for SAFER program grants or a letter of support for an application are encouraged to call Arcuri's Utica, NY office at 315-793-8146.

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